REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, rejected claims 3 and 7 and non-elected claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added.

I. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed copy of the PTO Form-1449 attached to the Information Disclosure Statement.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTION

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1 and 5.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0082299 to Tomofuji. This Amendment cancels rejected claims 3 and 7. Therefore, the rejection of claims 3 and 7 is moot.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 33,565 Mario A. Costantino

Klifton L. Kime

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MAC:KLK/kzb

Attachment: Information Disclosure Statement

Date: September 22, 2003

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